



Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts
Fall 2004 • Vol. 18, No. 4



This youngster helped paint a gecko on the lawn of the Hawai'i State Art Museum on Children and Youth Day on October 3, 2004. *Geckos in Paradise* featured 50 five-foot-long fiberglass geckos created by local artists as a fundraiser for the Kapiolani Breast Center. The geckos were displayed for the public on the HiSAM lawn in September and October. For more information, visit www.geckosinparadise.com.

Apply for New Grants Cycle Deadline is November 22, 2004

Arts organizations are encouraged to apply now for the upcoming grants cycle. The Biennium Grants are awarded for a two-year period. The HSFCa is now accepting applications for the upcoming grants cycle for Fiscal Year 2005-2006 and Fiscal Year 2006-2007. All applications that are received by the application deadline of November 22, 2004 will be considered.

Grants Application Forms Online on HSFCa Website

You may download grants application forms at the HSFCa website, www.hawaii.gov/sfca in the "Programs" section and the "Foundation Grants" subsection. Forms include instructions, guidelines, checklist, application, answers to common questions, and contact data. To get a printed copy or a compact disc, call (808) 586-0302 or email june.anami@hawaii.gov.

HSFCa Biennium Grants Program

The Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (HSFCa) Commission recently approved the allocation of grants funds for Fiscal Year 2004-2005. The HSFCa Biennium Grants Program provides funding to organizations to help support programs, projects, and services in culture, the arts, history, and the humanities that are beneficial to Hawai'i.

Over the years, the program has supported and nurtured hundreds of organizations throughout the state that have contributed to enriching the quality of life in their communities. The program administers general funds from the Hawai'i State Legislature, which are supplemented with federal funds from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). This year, as part of her effort to balance the state budget, Governor Linda Lingle, reduced the general fund allocation to the HSFCa Biennium Grants Program by \$500,000.

After this announcement, members of the local arts community met with the governor to discuss their concerns about the need for sustained grants funding to continue their work.

At a subsequent meeting, Governor Lingle announced that a new source of funding, federal funds totaling \$625,000 from the Department of Human Services (DHS) would be available to arts organizations that meet the eligibility requirements.

The DHS money is from a federal fund that can be used for programs serving children and youth-at-risk if it is done in accordance with complex federal guidelines. The newly designated federal monies will be given to the HSFCa to disperse to the grantees.

The HSFCa is pleased to announce that after combining the general funds, federal NEA funds, and the new federal funds, a grand total of \$1,287,493 in grants will be awarded to 110 projects in Fiscal Year 2004-2005. A detailed chart of the grantees, arranged by program areas, is shown on page three of this newsletter.

"The federal funds are available for prevention programs targeting at-risk youth to keep children out of poverty, to try to give them a better chance at life," said Governor Lingle. "These funds will allow the HSFCa to go beyond what it had originally allocated for these programs. I understand the argument by the arts community that youths, particularly those who are dis-

advantaged, can receive a profound and positive impact from being involved in healthy interests such as culture and the arts. It's a prime focus for us. We talk about prevention, and this really is prevention."

The governor praised DHS Director Lillian Koller for finding the money and said she is excited that more money is being put back into the account than the legislature had originally allocated. Koller said, "The money is part of a \$98 million federal block grant that pays for welfare and assistance programs but can also be used for programs to prevent teen pregnancy and strengthen families. The money was available, and it was not diverted from other uses."

"This strategy now makes monies available from the HSFCa's general fund allocation to be used for the other nonprofit arts groups slated to receive funds," said Ronald Yamakawa, HSFCa Executive Director. "The reallocation has been completed by the HSFCa. There were slight reductions to some grants, but by and large the nonprofit arts groups will receive most of what they expected. The federal money will be used to fund many programs in Fiscal Year 2004-2005."

"We thank the public for recognizing the value of the arts to our community," said Mona Abadir, HSFCa Chairperson. "It is evident that the preservation and enhancement of culture and the related art forms is essential to Hawai'i's well being. Culture is the thread which connects us all as it relates to education, economic development, human services, health, tourism, community development, environment, and security."

Abadir continued, "It has been nearly 40 years in which the HSFCa has served as Hawai'i's leading culture and arts agency. The HSFCa plays an important role in providing value to our citizens through the grantees."

"We thank Governor Lingle for convening vested citizens; she listened, cared, and came up with a creative solution. Mahalo to Lillian Koller, whose holistic thinking is essential in society today."



Grants Panelists Wanted to Select New Grantees

The HSFCa is seeking knowledgeable and experienced individuals to serve as advisory panelists for the grants and other award processes sponsored by the HSFCa. Individuals with expertise in culture, the arts, history, and/or the humanities may apply. Panelists application forms are on the HSFCa website in the same section listed at left. For information, call (808) 586-0302.

THIS ISSUE'S HIGHLIGHTS

HSFCa Biennium
Grants Program

Art in Public Places
The Legacy and Vision

Arts Education
A Commitment to Action

HSFCa Commission
Meets in Lana'i

Nihon Buyo in Hawai'i
Onoe Kikinobu
Dance Company

Message from the Chairperson



Mona Abadir

Aloha. On September 2nd, I was one of the many people who celebrated Queen Lili'uokalani's birthday at her Washington Place home. In a welcome speech, she was quoted as saying "In understanding our similarities, we can appreciate and respect our differences." In today's world, as in yesterdays' this has the ring of truth which resounded clearly on my recent trip to Washington, DC.

I was fortunate to participate in the procession for the opening ceremony of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian on the National Mall. September 21st began early on the National Mall, with thousands of indigenous people representing the Western Hemisphere, and their supporters, marching in full regalia in a Native Nations procession to the foot of the U.S. Capitol. It was followed by remarks of champions for the cause (including Senator Inouye), blessings, the start of First Americans Festival, and 24-hour visits to the new museum.

For the entire week festivities continued on the mall including large and small venues of traditional and contemporary dance, singing, chanting, and music from Incas, Hawaiians, and dozens of Indian tribes. There were tents for storytelling, instrument making, folk arts, and clothing workshops, and a chance to taste traditional foods of indigenous peoples. The generous sharing nature, inclusion, and open acceptance for all were felt by those lucky enough to be there.

The juxtaposition between the new museum, the festivities, and the exhibitions against the mall's symbolic monuments are evident and important. Their long overdue arrival represents national and international recognition in a place of honor for the First People of the Western Hemisphere and for all indigenous peoples of the world. It emphasizes the time is now to recognize Native Hawaiian rights.

As a first generation American, I grew up learning respect for other cultures, and in time gained a deep appreciation for the value of understanding one's roots or cultural identity. I feel a kinship with indigenous people, and empathy for their plight in history. It comes from my own cultural heritage. Preserving cultural heritage acknowledges First People's connection to the land, gives respect and promotes conservation of the land for its people, cares for its people's needs, and provides a safe haven for traditional shared values. This common philosophy must, in the end, connect all indigenous people, and perhaps all people.

Recently, HSFCa commissioners had our monthly meeting on Lana'i.

Here is a small community of 2,900 people, working together, but one that is often neglected or forgotten. Lana'i is an island of people that has gone through major change over time: from Hawaiians inhabiting the land, to pineapple plantation life with a majority of the workers being from Japan and the Philippines, and finally, to two major resorts being the main employer of an eight mile by 12 mile island. People work hard with two or three jobs. We were told many families spend less time with each other, due to 24-hour shifts. And the theory is that toxins left in the environment have affected the populace, many of them children.

On the way to and from DC, I read the book *Hawai'i's Story by Hawai'i's Queen*. I was struck by something else Queen Lili'uokalani said, "When people of native birth and part native birth prosper, business is good and the community prospers. ...We must care for all peoples of our lands." On Lana'i, we met with the leaders for the Lana'i Art Center and Lana'i High and Elementary School (690 students are 40 percent of the population), people who exemplify the meaning behind the queen's words. They also define the most important aspect of bringing the community together to benefit the community. What is truly inspirational is how much they accomplish with limited resources and what they could do with more help. (See Lana'i visit story on page seven for contact information.)

This is just one story. There are countless others in all of our communities. We are thankful that Governor Linda Lingle brought people together,

and she and Lillian Koller found Human Services money to provide much needed grant funds for your important programs in our state. However, we must do more. Over the years, HSFCa grant giving has decreased 85 percent and small community needs have not gone away. We ask for citizens' help to work to restore funds to viable nonprofits that provide public services and access to people often not heard.

Please lend a hand. Here are things we can do:

1. Write your legislator about organizations' needs and successes in your community—your voices make a difference and count to those who represent you.
2. Adopt a nonprofit. Give of your time and resources to an important cause. Every little bit helps and goes a long way.
3. Share other grant opportunities you might know about; state, federal or private sector foundations, and help someone write a grant if necessary.
4. Be creative. Partner with health, economic or social organizations, and small businesses in your community to achieve your mutual goals.
5. Tell us your stories. We will help get the word out.

Over 100 years ago, Queen Lili'uokalani said "I have been known so long as a friend of education, of art and of all those refining influences which exalt a nation, and elevate the character of the individual." For those people who do not have a strong voice; it is up to all of us to ensure that their time has come.

Message from the Executive Director



Ronald Yamakawa

It's that time again. Every two years, the HSFCa accepts applications for the Biennium Grants Program. We provide arts organizations with funding for culture and arts programs and events. Please see our lead story on page one which discusses the grants program and the application process.

As many of you have read in the newspapers, the grants program has faced some funding challenges this year. During this difficult time of economic recovery for our state, as part of her budget plan Governor Lingle reduced the grants budget by \$500,000.

Governor Lingle later met with representatives of art organizations to hear their concerns about the need for these grants to carry out their important work for the community. After doing some research, Governor Lingle was able to locate an additional source of funding,

federal funds for the Department of Human Services (DHS) that can be used for arts grants totaling \$625,000.

We thank Governor Lingle and Lillian Koller, DHS Director for their creative thinking and assistance in this endeavor. We also send a big mahalo to the arts community for sharing their thoughts about the vital work that is made possible by the grants program.

It's important to keep abreast of the latest developments in the arts on a national level and to learn by meeting with our colleagues throughout the USA. We felt fortunate that Hawai'i was represented at pARTicipate 2004, the 2nd Joint Meeting of Americans for the Arts and the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies. See stories on this conference on pages four, six, and seven.

We also need to keep in contact with the arts community on the neighbor islands, which is why we periodically hold HSFCa Commission Meetings at locations throughout the state. We recently met on Lana'i and were pleased to meet with local arts leaders to learn more about arts activities and events there.

Speaking of the neighbor isles, we welcome Georja Skinner, our new HSFCa Commissioner who represents the island of Maui. Georja has been actively involved in the arts her entire life, and we feel very fortunate to have her serving on the commission.

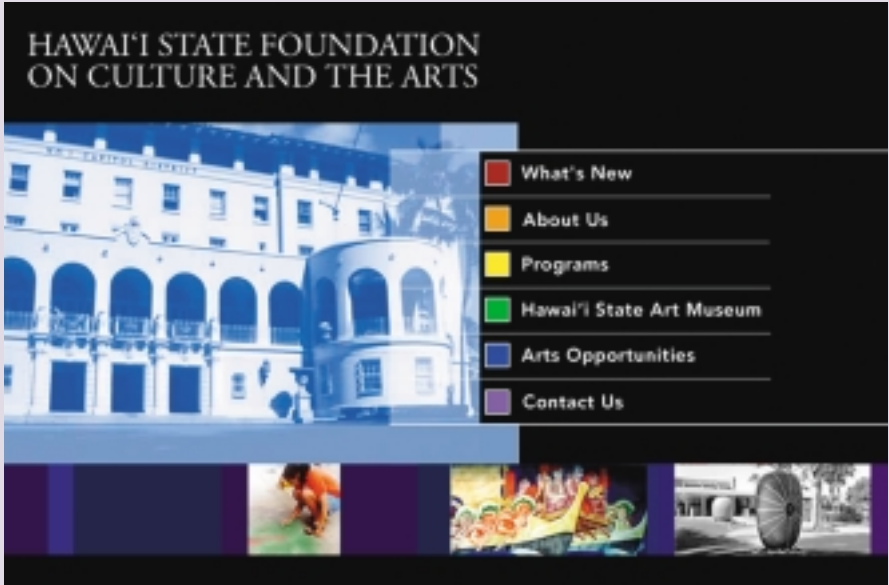
Be sure to see *Inner Scapes*, a new exhibition of abstract art now on display until February 27, 2005 at the

Hawai'i State Art Museum. We recently held three opening receptions for the Friends of HiSAM, state government employees and Hawai'i Capital Cultural District members, and the general public. Over 400 people attended the opening receptions.

We invite you to come and see the people's art. HiSAM is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and admission is free. It's the best bargain in town, and a great way to spend some quality time with your friends and family.

We congratulate our own Jon Ikegami, Exhibit Specialist, who recently received the Alfred Preis Memorial Award for the Visual Arts at the Honolulu Academy of Art's Artists of Hawai'i 2004 exhibition.

Last but not least, be sure to check-out our HSFCa Calendar of Events on page four. It lists events we have planned for the months of November and December. We hope you will attend many of these free events.



Visit Our New Website

Visit our new HSFCa website at www.hawaii.gov/sfca. The website now features a dynamic homepage, beautiful photos, and improved navigational tools. There's lots of data on the arts in Hawai'i, the USA, and worldwide.

HSFCA Biennium Grants Program – Fiscal Year 2004-2005 Grantees

HSFCA Biennium Grants are given to support programming and services in culture, the arts, history, and the humanities throughout Hawai‘i. In Fiscal Year 2004-2005, a grand total of \$1,287,493 will be awarded to 110 projects listed below. The projects which received funding in part from the Department of Human Services are indicated with an asterisk (*).

MEDIA ARTS		
The Storybook Theatre of Hawai‘i	Basic Support Grant	\$9,132 *
Hawai‘i Community Television	Pacific New Media	\$12,728
Hawai‘i Public Television	Spectrum Hawai‘i	\$12,797
Na‘alehu Theater	Youth Apprenticeship in Media Arts	\$6,774 *

LITERARY ARTS		
Bamboo Ridge Press	Publication of Bamboo Ridge Press (Basic)	\$14,352 *
Hawai‘i Literary Arts Council	Literature for ALL Hawai‘i’s People I and II	\$12,552 *
UH-Mānoa, English Department	Mānoa, A Pacific Journal	\$12,507 *

ETHNIC HERITAGE		
Friends of Waipahu Cultural Garden Park	Basic Plantation Culture Lives	\$9,692 *
Hawai‘i Council on Portuguese Heritage	Basic Portuguese Ethnic Heritage Project	\$7,442 *
Council of Samoan Chiefs and Orators in Hawai‘i	The Samoan Flag Day Celebration/Workshop	\$5,477
East Hawai‘i Cultural Council	Slack Key Guitar, Hawai‘i’s Own	\$7,525
Friends of Waipahu Cultural Garden Park	Drums of Hawai‘i Plantation, Era & Search	\$4,358
Hawai‘i County Economic Opportunity	Hawai‘i Kupuna Hula Festival	\$5,000
Hawai‘i United Okinawa Association	Warabi Ashibi-Children at Play	\$3,275 *
Hawaiian Scottish Association	23/24 Annual Hawaiian Scottish Festival	\$4,608
Kona Historical Society	Kona’s Portuguese Ethnic Heritage	\$9,025
Moanalua Gardens Foundation	MGF’s Prince Lot Hula Festival XXVI/Festival XXVII	\$6,910 *
National Organization for Traditional Artist Exchange	Traditions Radio Series	\$6,025
Volcano Art Center	Na Mea Hawai‘i	\$8,915 *

PRESENTING		
National Organization for Traditional Artist Exchange	Basic Grant-Tradex	\$6,025
Ebb and Flow Arts, Inc.	Festival: From Russia with Aloha/North-South, East-West	\$4,311
Friends of the Ballet/Ballet Hawai‘i	Ballet Hawai‘i Presents!	\$5,882
Hawai‘i Association of Music Societies	Support for Touring Ensembles	\$7,311
Hawai‘i Concert Society	Hawai‘i Concert Society Season	\$2,730
Hawai‘i Theatre Center	Hawai‘i Theatre Presents!	\$5,882
Kahilu Theatre Foundation	Kahilu Theatre’s 24th Annual Presenting Season	\$10,454
Maui Arts & Cultural Center	Any Kine Performance and Residency Program	\$9,668 *
Performing Arts Presenters of Hawai‘i	Statewide Touring Arts	\$12,193
UH-Leeward Community College Theatre	Performing Arts Central	\$11,811
UH, Outreach College	World Performance Series	\$11,668

DANCE		
Honolulu Dance Theatre	Basic Performance Season	\$4,611 *
Monkey and the Waterfall Dance Theatre	Monkey and the Waterfall Basic	\$7,320
West Hawai‘i Dance Theatre	West Hawai‘i Dance Theatre Basic Program	\$8,528 *
Friends of the Ballet/Ballet Hawai‘i	Ballet Hawai‘i Season	\$9,252 *
Dance Pioneers	Loli‘ana/Huliau	\$8,909 *
International Folk Dancers of Hawai‘i	Celebration of Folk Dance and Music	\$5,067
Nova Arts Foundation, Inc.	Iona Contemporary Dance Theatre Season	\$11,966 *
Performing Arts Presenters of Hawai‘i	Statewide Dance Touring Program	\$14,158 *
Onoe Kikunobu Kai	One Ryu Dance Legacy in Hawai‘i 45 Years	\$12,109
TILT Dance Company	Pilot Performance Project	\$4,993

HISTORY & HUMANITIES		
Kaua‘i Historical Society	Kaua‘i Basic History Program	\$14,858
Kona Historical Society	Basic Community History Program	\$17,237 *
Lahaina Restoration Foundation	LRF Collections and Exhibit Upgrade I/II	\$7,877
Lyman House Memorial Museum	Collections Storage Upgrade	\$16,904
Moili‘ili Community Center	Moili‘ili History Project	\$5,000 *
UH Mānoa Art Gallery	Treasures from the UH Library	\$14,912

COMMUNITY ARTS		
East Hawai‘i Cultural Council	East Hawai‘i Community Arts Support Basic	\$17,037 *
Garden Island Arts Council	Kaua‘i Community Arts Basic Development	\$19,537 *
Kalihi-Palama Culture and Arts Society	Kalihi-Palama Basic Community Arts Project	\$18,037 *
Lana‘i Arts and Cultural Center	Lana‘i Arts Program Basic Community Arts Grant	\$10,537 *
Society for Kona’s Education and Arts	Basic – The Art of Community	\$16,037 *
Wai‘anae Coast Culture and Arts Society	Wai‘anae Coast Cultural and Arts Basic Activities	\$17,037 *

Kohala High School	He Mea Pa‘ahana Lio No Na Kumu	\$5,536 *
Kualoa-Heeia Ecumenical Youth Project	Hui Laulima Program	\$13,536 *
Volcano Arts Center	Community Arts Program	\$12,036 *

THEATER		
Hawai‘i State Theatre Council	Basic Hawai‘i State Theatre Council	\$3,500
Hilo Community Players	Basic Theater Season 2004-2005	\$12,168
Kumu Kahua Theatre, Inc.	Kumu Kahua Theatre Basic Season	\$28,616
Maui Community Theatre	Maui OnStage Basic	\$15,025
Diamond Head Theatre	Ragtime/Cats	\$8,354 *
Hilo Community Players	Youth Theatre Season (2004/2005)	\$12,168 *
Honolulu Theatre for Youth	Developing Writers for Hawai‘i Theatre	\$19,554 *
Maui Academy of Performing Arts	Theatre Performance Project	\$12,583 *

ARTS IN EDUCATION		
Alliance for Drama Education	Basic: Alliance for Drama Education	\$19,737 *
Big Island Dance Council	Basic Big Island Dance Education Project	\$8,983 *
Bamboo Ridge Press	Bamboo Ridge Writers Workshop	\$7,957 *
Bishop Museum	Science of Art Hands-On Program	\$7,129 *
The Contemporary Museum	TCM: Transformation and Transportation	\$4,013 *
Hawai‘i Music Educators Association	Musical Bridges Leave No... /Musical Hawai‘i: Listen...	\$6,872 *
Hawai‘i Theatre Center	HTC’s “Educational Programming Project”	\$4,916 *
Hawai‘i Vocal Arts Ensemble	Choral Masterworks Project	\$5,646 *
Holualoa Foundation for Arts and Culture	Art Experiences	\$9,211 *
Honolulu Academy of Arts	Arts in Education	\$29,901 *
Honolulu Theatre for Youth	Statewide Theatre for Youth	\$44,598 *
Hui Noeau, Inc.	ArtWORKS! For Youth	\$18,464 *
Kahilu Theatre Foundation	Kids at Kahilu	\$15,210 *
Kaua‘i Academy of Creative Arts	Young People’s Summer Arts Program	\$8,134 *
Maui Academy of Performing Arts	Arts Education Project	\$15,072 *
Maui Arts & Cultural Center	Partnering for Arts and Education	\$33,791 *
Maui Dance Council	Chance to Dance	\$9,038 *
Nova Arts Foundation, Inc.	IONA: High School Dance Program	\$5,027 *
Ohia Productions, Inc.	Children’s Theater at the Honolulu Zoo	\$13,756 *
Society for Kona’s Education and Arts	The Art of Learning	\$9,489 *
Storybook Theatre of Hawai‘i	Forest Akamai	\$5,599 *
Theatre Theatre Maui	Summer Drama Program 2004	\$6,447 *

VISUAL ARTS		
Hawai‘i Craftsmen	Hawai‘i Craftsmen Basic Program	\$17,826
Kaua‘i Society of Artists	KSA Basic Visual Arts Program	\$7,168
The Contemporary Museum	TCM Exhibition Series 2004-2005	\$19,121
Hawai‘i Community Television	PNM Photographic Workshop Series	\$7,331
Hawai‘i Handweavers’ Hui	Supplementary Warp Design/Braids	\$2,340
Hawai‘i Stitchery and Fibre Arts Guild	Fibre Arts Workshop/Lectures	\$3,554
Honolulu Academy of Arts	Exhibitions	\$21,998
Honolulu Printmakers	Visiting Artist/Annual Exhibition	\$4,080
Hui Noeau, Inc.	Adult Education Program	\$21,286
UH-Hilo, Art Department	2005 Pacific Rim International Exhibit 1	\$9,616
UH-Mānoa, Intersections	Intersections	\$5,645
TEMARI, Center for Asian and Pacific Arts	Visiting Artists Program	\$8,233
UH-Windward Community College	Community College Art	\$6,000

MUSIC/OPERA		
Hawai‘i Vocal Arts Ensemble	Basic Grant: Annual Concert Series	\$10,442
The Honolulu Chorale	Basic	\$3,000
Honolulu Community Concert Band	Basic Operation of Community Band	\$4,000 *
Ka‘u Concert Society	Basic Performing Arts Plan for Ka‘u	\$6,108 *
The Kaua‘i Chorale	Basic Kaua‘i Chorale Annual Concert Series	\$1,954
O‘ahu Choral Society	O‘ahu Choral Society Basic	\$8,992
O‘ahu Civic Orchestra, Inc.	Basic	\$5,817 *
Hawai‘i Opera Theatre	Hawai‘i Opera Theatre	\$40,431
Hawai‘i Opera Theatre	Hawai‘i Opera Theatre – Educational	\$24,225 *
Honolulu Symphony Society	Honolulu Symphony Concert Series	\$54,543
Honolulu Symphony Society	Honolulu Symphony Youth Music Education	\$48,990 *
Windward Community Arts Council	Music Education in the Community: Chamber	\$3,775 *

Meet HSFCA Commissioner Georja Skinner



Georja Skinner

Commissioner, Georja Skinner, who was appointed by Governor Linda Lingle. Growing up in Hollywood, California, Skinner took lessons in art, dance, and piano that helped shape her appreciation for the arts. She attended Hollywood High, where she took top honors receiving the Los Angeles Times Art Award, and LA City College to study television and film production, which lead to an internship and 10 years of employment at Metromedia Television (now Fox TV).

Skinner first did on air promotion and programming, then headed the sound department on such shows as *Soul Train*, *Truth or Consequences*, *Don Kirshner's Rock Concert*, and *Going Platinum*. She was lead sound mixer on Norman Lear's shows – *All in the Family*; *The Jeffersons*; *One Day at a Time*; *Good Times*; *Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman*; *Fernwood Tonite*; and *Hot L Baltimore*. She received two Emmy Award nominations for her work.

For the past 24 years, Skinner has lived in Maui. Her first job there was creating an inhouse video for the Maui Marriott Resort in 1981. Two years later, she established Maui's first public relations firm, Skinner Communications. Her clients were Maui Marriott, Maui Arts & Cultural Center, Maui Economic Development Board, Ka'anapali Beach Resort Association, Ritz Carlton-Kapalua, and Tedeschi Vineyards.

As a public relations/marketing professional, her company specialized in event creation, electronic press kits, video news releases, general public relations, graphic identity, and crisis communications. Hill and Knowlton/Communications Pacific acquired Skinner Communications in 1990, and she served as general manager of their Maui office until 1993. She worked as manager for the musical group Hapa and helped launch the island duo of Barry Flanagan and Keli'i Kaneali'i and was part of the team that created "Celebration of the Arts," an annual event at the Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua.

Skinner was named film commissioner for the County of Maui, Office of Economic Development, appointed by then Mayor Linda Lingle and served from 1994 to 1998. In 1999, she created a partnership with the University of Southern

California (USC) School of Cinema Television to create a summer film program for digital film production, animation, and web design. The program is now in its fourth year under the umbrella of the Hawai'i Filmmakers Initiative (HFI) and is supported by a grant from the Maui County Office of Economic Development, private donations and tuitions.

Wanting to get back to production, Skinner launched Skinner Entertainment in 2002, a company that manages writers and producers, as well as providing full production services for screen, television, and direct to DVD markets.

The company also handles marketing of major events including the Maui Writers Conference and Retreat. Current projects in development include the PBS series *MythQuest* (Braun Productions), *Soul Surfer – The Bethany Hamilton Story* (Romano / Shane Productions) and two projects based on Philo T. Farnsworth, the man who invented electronic television (HBO and New Line Cinema). In addition to working with clients, Skinner continues to pursue her writing career. Her memoir, *The Christmas House* will be published by New World Library in the fall of 2005.

Skinner has served on the boards of Na Mele O Maui, Akaku Community Television, Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) Student Advisory Board and Docent Training Program, and Barnsdall Junior Art Center (Los Angeles County). She was a member of the University of Hawai'i Visioning Team for the creating of its Film School (now called the Academy for Creative Media) and served as a judge for the Emmy Awards while a member of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

"I am a firm believer in the power of the arts in our daily lives," Skinner says. "I hope I can help inspire and awaken others to the notion that the arts in Hawai'i are crucial to the well-being of our community. The arts allow us to express our deepest feelings, whether we're creating the art or being moved by viewing it. A thriving arts community in Hawai'i is something we all must care about so that we can continue to fulfill the mission of the HSFCA.

"I especially want to be a conduit for our Maui County arts organizations in all areas of visual, written, performing, and multimedia arts. A dialog between neighbor islands and O'ahu is critical to the success of our artists here. I hope to join my fellow commissioners on projects that are targeted at exposing the arts to new communities throughout our state, creating a vibrant new area of growth for our state's economy. By working in new ways to weave together all aspects of the arts in our multi-island community, we can create a powerful force for arts appreciation in Hawai'i. Art matters!"

HSFCA Calendar of Events

The HSFCA announces the following free events in November and December 2004. Mark your calendars for the events you would like to attend. For more information on these events, visit www.hawaii.gov/sfca or call (808) 586-0307.

NOVEMBER 2004

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| Nov. 5, 2004
5 to 9 p.m. | First Friday – Honolulu's Downtown Gallery Walk. The Hawai'i State Art Museum and downtown galleries and studios celebrate art. Free and open to the public. |
| Nov. 7, 2004
2 p.m. | Folk Arts Outreach Program. Presentation on history of Hawaiian steel guitar by Alan Akaka at Cooper Center at Volcano Village, Hawai'i. Free and open to the public. |
| Nov. 7, 2004
11 a.m. | Folk Arts Outreach Program. Presentation on Hawaiian crafts by Dennis Kana'e Keawe and apprentice Hokuao Pelligrino on the grounds of 'Iolani Palace. Free and open to the public. |
| Nov. 14, 2004
2 p.m. | Folk Arts Outreach Program. A tribute to the Paniolo to include musical performances, an educational exhibit, and dialogue at Kahilu Theatre in Waimea, Hawai'i. Free and open to the public. |
| Nov. 23, 2004
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. | Commission Meeting. Multipurpose Room, First Floor No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, Honolulu. |

DECEMBER 2004

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| Dec. 3, 2004
5 to 9 p.m. | First Friday – Honolulu's Downtown Gallery Walk. The Hawai'i State Art Museum and downtown galleries and studios celebrate art. Free and open to the public. |
| Dec. 21, 2004
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. | Commission Meeting. Public meeting at HSFCA Multipurpose Room, First Floor No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, Honolulu. |

'Iolani Palace Gives Presentation at 15th International Congress of Archives

Vienna was the colorful backdrop for the 15th International Congress of Archives that was held on August 23-27, 2004. The theme of *Memory and Knowledge* brought approximately 2,500 archivists from 116 countries who gathered to share, listen, and discuss standards and policies of the archivist profession.

'Iolani Palace was invited to present a paper, *Archives Save a Hawaiian Palace*, as one of the case studies sponsored by the American Records Managers Association (ARMA). 'Iolani Palace is a prime example of the utilization of archives in renovating an historic site.

For 30 years, volunteers and staff have searched records in an attempt to contact individuals and institutions that may hold objects that were separated from the Palace through a series of public auctions, in the years following the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy. Attendance at the congress has notified colleagues that we are still looking for these objects and appreciate their assistance in the search.

With 400 speakers spread over 40 sessions, the week-long congress was an opportunity to meet colleagues who are working in museum archives, corporate archives, national libraries, government archives, and private collections.

Information and access to it, is so powerful that many congress participants focused solely on cooperative preservation tactics that cross national borders. For more information about the Congress, visit www.wien2004.ica.org.



Stuart Ching, Curator of 'Iolani Palace is shown at the 15th International Congress on Archives in Vienna, Austria that was held on August 23-29, 2004.

pARTicipate 2004 – 2nd Joint Conference of AFTA and NASAA

pARTicipate 2004, the 2nd Joint Conference of Americans for the Arts and the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, was held in Washington, DC on July 17-20, 2004. About 1,200 people attended.

Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts attendees were Mona Abadir, Chairperson; Ronald Yamakawa, Executive Director; Elaine Zinn, Arts in Education Coordinator; and Fay Ann Chun, Community Arts Coordinator.

W. Richard West, Jr., a citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma and a Peace Chief of the Southern Cheyenne, gave the opening speech. West is the founding director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.

During this amazing conference in our nation's capital, guests attended lectures on the arts, participated in peer group sessions, and toured local arts facilities

and events. People networked with their colleagues to discover what's happening with the arts in other states.

To learn more, visit these websites:
www.participatetweb.org is the official website for the conference; it features a photo gallery, session summaries, a meeting report, and more
www.artsusa.org has data on Americans for the Arts, the nation's leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts in America
www.nasaa-arts.org has data on the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, the national organization for state-level art agencies
www.nmai.si.edu has data on the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC

Friends of HiSAM Membership Campaign Initiated

A special reception organized by the Friends of the Hawai'i State Art Museum was held in the Sculpture Lobby on September 14, 2004. The event celebrated the opening of *Inner Scapes* and kicked off the Friend's first membership campaign.

The Friends of HiSAM is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to furthering the artistic, cultural, and education programs of the museum. Corine Hayashi serves as the Friends inaugural Board President. Under Corine's leadership, the support group will work to ensure the future financial and programmatic vitality of HiSAM.

In order to prosper and flourish in the future and to serve an ever-growing audience, the museum will need to develop other sources of revenue such as the Friend's current membership campaign.

The Friend's first challenge is to raise the necessary funds for developing the museum's gift shop, café, and information kiosk located on the first floor of the historic No. 1 Capitol District Building. These visitor amenities will provide much needed earned revenue for the museum over time.

How can you help? Join the Friends now, receive benefits, and be proud to be part of one of the fastest growing cultural organizations in the state. Join by November 30, 2004 and become a member of the Founder's Club! Join by phone at (808) 586-0305 or by returning the attached membership envelope.

You can also go online, to www.hawaii.gov/sfca in the Hawai'i State Art Museum section to download a membership form, which you can either mail or fax to us. It's easy to become a Friend today!

HAWAI'I STATE ART MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Individual Members (\$30) Receive:

- Invitations to members opening receptions
- Invitations and announcements for FRIENDS-only programs and events
- Free or discounted ticket prices to programs and events
- Subscription to Art Reach newsletter

Dual/Supporter Members (\$50) Receive:

- All of the above, plus
- Priority registration for classes, workshops, and special events
- Invitations to member opening receptions plus two accompanying guests

Contributors (\$75) Receive:

- All of the above, plus
- Behind the scenes tour of the Museum
- Invitations to FRIENDS-only events

Sponsors (\$100) Receive:

- All of the above, plus
- Two private behind the scenes tours of the Museum with curator

Associates (\$250) Receive:

- All of the above, plus
- Public recognition as a HiSAM Donor
- One Invitation to Patron-only programs and events

Donors (\$500) Receive:

- All of the above, plus
- Invitations to Patron-only programs and events
- VIP exhibition walk-through with artist or curator

Patrons (\$1,000) Receive:

- All of the above, plus visits to other local museums, artists' studios and private collections
- Lunch for six with the HSFCa Executive Director at HiSAM cafe (opening 2005)
- 10 percent discount on facilities rental
- An Invitation to Artist's Dinner
- An Invitation to a major FRIENDS Dinner

Art In Public Places Program The Legacy and Vision Continues through HiSAM

Alfred Preis founded the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts in 1965. Two years later, civic and culturally minded individuals established the HSFCa's Art in Public Places Program with the passage of the One Percent for Art Law by the Hawai'i State Legislature. Recognized internationally as an exemplary model, this program has evolved into one of the finest and most highly regarded visual arts programs of its kind in the country.

For almost 40 years, the Art in Public Places program has provided vital support to artists throughout the state by acquiring and commissioning works of art to enhance the built environment. Support of the artistic community through the One Percent for Art Law has often allowed individuals to continue their work and has served as an inspiration for depicting and preserving Hawai'i's rich cultural patrimony.

To make the HSFCa's collections even more accessible to a wider audience, the Hawai'i State Art Museum became part of the One Percent for Art Law this year, further enhancing the mandate of this dynamic public art program. With the advent of the Hawai'i

State Art Museum as a primary exhibition and interpretation venue, the responsibilities of the Art in Public Places Program have grown and intensified. The educational opportunities for interpreting Hawai'i's artistry to a broad audience through the new museum are far reaching.

As a flagship for the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, the museum can and should serve as a vehicle for showcasing all of the HSFCa's significant work. In this way the Hawai'i State Art Museum can promote greater understanding and appreciation for all the arts. A multi-disciplinary approach towards museum programming will enable inter-institutional collaborations and will strengthen already existing partnerships with, for example, the Department of Education (DOE) and community-based organizations throughout the state. Moreover, the HSFCa's Folk Arts, History and Humanities, and Arts in Education Programs can be interpreted through museum programs to the general public. The possibilities are endless.

As an incubator, the Hawai'i State Art Museum can originate new, dynam-

ic exhibitions and cultural activities on a wide range of subjects. Lectures, performances, workshops, demonstrations, and special events dedicated to the arts of Hawai'i and its people will add significantly to our cultural assets. Exhibits and curriculum materials can then be made available to community colleges, airport environs, cultural centers, libraries, and public schools throughout the state.

As we approach the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts' 40th Anniversary, the Art in Public Places Program continues to serve as a vital and exemplary model for innovative and meaningful approaches for arts and cultural activities which serve a broad statewide audience. Join with us in celebrating the legacy and visions for a great public art program!



This historic photo of the former YMCA Armed Services Building circa 1928 is now known as the No. 1 Capitol District Building, home of the Hawai'i State Art Museum and the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.



Some of the attendees at the reception for the Friends of the Hawai'i State Art Museum were, left to right, Satoru Abe, Cade Roster, Waialea Davis Roster, John Tanji Koga, Fay Ann Chun, David de la Torre, Paul Morgan, Barb Morgan, and Corine Hayashi.

Inner Scapes Art Exhibition Opening Reception



Governor Linda Lingle attended a reception and gave a speech at the Hawai'i State Art Museum on September 15, 2004 for the opening of the new *Inner Scapes* art exhibition. The reception also commemorated the first anniversary of the Hawai'i Capital Cultural District. Pictured left to right are HSFCa Commissioners (except as noted) George Ellis, Mary Philpotts, Executive Director Ronald Yamakawa, Governor Linda Lingle, HSFCa Chairperson Mona Abadir, Georja Skinner, Millie Kim, and Chuck Freedman. Mona Abadir and Abby Shaw, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor, gave speeches on behalf of Mayor Jeremy Harris. Abadir's speech is online at www.hawaii.gov/sfca.

Call for Visual Art Consultants

The Art in Public Places Program seeks volunteers with expertise and knowledge in the visual arts field to serve as visual arts consultants on Art Advisory Committees and Acquisition Award Selection Committees. Deadline for applications is January 3, 2005. Applications are online at www.hawaii.gov/sfca.

Arts Education: Mobilizing a Commitment to Action

HSFCA Arts in Education Coordinator, Elaine Zinn and Hawai'i Alliance for Arts Education Executive Director- Marilyn Cristofori, Chair - Gail Mukaihata Hannemann, Chair-elect - Joseph Kim and Board member - Louise King Lanzilotti attended the Arts Education Pre-Conference, July 15 and 16, 2004 in Washington, DC.

The pre-conference, ARTS Education: Mobilizing A Commitment to Action was sponsored by the Americans for the Arts (AFTA), National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA), and The Kennedy Center as part of pARTcipate 2004, a joint conference of AFTA and NASAA.

Mobilizing a Commitment to Action focused on six key issues:

Advocacy & Policy, Partnerships & Collaborations, Assessment, Standards, Evaluation & Research, and Professional Development.

The HSFCA Arts in Education Program will continue its work in all these areas with a focus on Assessment, Evaluation & Research, and Advocacy & Policy in Fiscal Year 2004-2005. Upon returning to Hawai'i, the Alliance and the HSFCA coordinated a workshop with the Hawai'i Consortium for the Arts focusing on two of these key issues – Assessment and Evaluation & Research.

On September 16, 2004, arts education community leaders and teaching artists participated in a two-hour workshop at the ARTS at Mark's Garage to develop evaluation and assessment strategies to tell the powerful stories of



Deb Brzoska leads an interactive workshop at the ARTS at Mark's Garage.

arts education programs across the state.

Deb Brzoska, ARTS FIRST's learning and teaching consultant, led the interactive workshop focusing on the application of national arts education research and field studies to their own projects and activities.

One of the key questions Brzoska asked the group was to identify the target audience they are intending to impact. Is it teachers? Is it students? What will your target audience need to know and be able to do in order for

your work to have made an impact?

It is not enough to engage students or teachers in the arts. Arts educators also must be "collectors of evidence" to provide data that shows the level of learning that occurred.

The group will reconvene next spring to share the data they have collected and discuss how to use their evidence to evaluate and assess the learning strategies and the outcome of their projects and activities.

"The research tells us what parents and education policymakers have known all along but haven't been able to prioritize on a national level. The arts are critical, not only as a link to student productivity, but also as a key to a competitive workforce."

– Mike Huckabee, Governor of Arkansas and Chair, Education Commission of the States

Application Deadline for Artistic Teaching Partners

The next deadline for artist applications for Artistic Teaching Partners (aka Artists in the Schools Roster) is December 1, 2004. Contact Elaine Zinn, HSFCA Arts in Education Coordinator at (808) 586-0768 or email at elaine.zinn@hawaii.gov for a copy of the Guidelines and Application Forms. The information may also be downloaded at www.hawaii.gov/sfca.

Secondary Schools Recognized for Arts Excellence

HSFCA Arts in Education Program and the Hawai'i Alliance for Arts Education honored three DOE schools – Baldwin High School (Wailuku, Maui), Educational Laboratory School (a charter school on O'ahu), and Roosevelt High School (Honolulu) – for excellence in their arts programs.

The presentation was part of the Celebrate! the ARTS event held on October 16, 2004 at the historic Hawai'i Theatre in downtown Honolulu. Each of the three secondary schools received a plaque and an award of \$3,000 provided by the HSFCA for their arts program.

Pacific Handcrafter's Guild presented a first time award of \$3,000 to Leilehua High School for their outstanding visual arts program.

Six secondary schools were recognized for their arts program with monetary awards from the sale of the Arts license plates by the Alliance. Public Schools include Castle High School and Lahainaluna High School; Independent Schools, Mid-Pacific Institute, Sacred Hearts Academy, and Seabury Hall; and Kanu O Ka'Aina, a native Hawaiian charter school on the island of Hawai'i.

Middle Schools across the state may apply for the 2005 School Arts Excellence Award. Applications will be distributed by the Alliance to the public and private schools this fall.

This mixed media artwork was created by Leah Berry, age 18, while enrolled in Roosevelt High School's Arts and Communication Academy.



Morris Umeno

Arts Workshops for Teachers

The HSFCA, the Hawai'i Alliance for Arts Education (HAAE), and the Hawai'i Department of Education are sponsoring several arts workshops for teachers, particularly elementary classroom teachers beginning in January 2005. DOE professional credits will be available for teachers.

Flyers with workshop information and registration details will be sent to elementary schools and to previous arts workshop participants in November. Further information about the workshops will be available in November on the HSFCA website: www.hawaii.gov/sfca.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

- Integrating the Arts across the K-5 Curriculum**
Big Island of Hawai'i • January 8, 15, February 5, 2005
- Integrating the Arts across the K-5 Curriculum**
Kaua'i • January 11, 25, February 5, 2005
- Building Literacy with Drama**
O'ahu – Aiea • January 11, 18, 25, 2005
- Steps to Creating a Mural – Collage Mural for K-3**
Honolulu • January 8, 15, 2005 – longer sessions
- Steps to Creating a Mural – Painted Mural for 4-6**
O'ahu – Windward • March 5, 12, 2005 – longer sessions
- Connecting to Art in the Gallery**
Hawai'i State Art Museum • February 17, 26, 2005

Arts Education – Quick Facts and Figures

- Did you know?
- Young people who participate in the arts for at least three hours on three days each week through at least one full year are:
- Four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement
 - Three times more likely to be elected to class office within their schools
 - Four times more likely to participate in a math and science fair
 - Three times more likely to win an award for school attendance
 - Four times more likely to win an award for writing an essay or poem

Source: Americans for the Arts

HSFCA Commission Meets in Lana'i

The Lana'i Art Center hosted the monthly HSFCA Commission Meeting on August 25, 2004. The HSFCA acknowledges that the needs and concerns vary from island to island and community to community. Therefore this meeting provided an opportunity for arts and culture organizations to explain their programs and participate in open discussions with HSFCA Commissioners and staff.

The HSFCA Commission heard presentations by Phyllis McOmber, Board President and Greg Cohen, Executive Director of the Lana'i Art Center and Dr. Sharie Liden, Lana'i High and Elementary School Psychologist.

"It was our pleasure to get a chance to meet the board and to show them a slice of small island life. It was gracious of them to let us make our presentations, and gratifying to hear they were positive about their experience on Lana'i. There's often the feeling that we are off in the hinterland here, so it was nice to be acknowledged and have people ask relevant, interested questions," said Greg Cohen, Executive Director of the Lana'i Art Center.

Following the meeting, the HSFCA Commission and staff visited Lana'i High and Elementary School. Pierce Myers, School Principal, provided an informative tour of his school with a special focus on their art classrooms and HSFCA installed and commissioned artworks. He wished to "express my appreciation for their willingness to hear our efforts and for their support of the arts."

For more information on the Lana'i Art Center, visit www.lanaiart.org or call (808) 565-7503.



The Lana'i Art Center hosted the monthly HSFCA Commission Meeting on August 25, 2004. Bottom row, left to right, Ronald Yamakawa, George Ellis, Pat Ohara, Sharie Liden, Phyllis McOmber, Greg Cohen, Mona Abadir, Judy Hee, and Fay Ann Chun. Top row, left to right, Chuck Freedman, Manu Boyd, Mary Philpotts, and Alfred Laureta.

2004 Living Heritage Series

The 2004 Living Heritage Series got underway in July with a pair of ethnic music and dance presentations on the grounds of 'Iolani Palace. The series, sponsored by the HSFCA in partnership with the Friends of 'Iolani Palace, seeks to build awareness and appreciation for Hawai'i's diverse traditional art forms. All programs in the series are free and open to the public in order to promote broad access to these artistic expressions.

On July 11, H. Wayne Mendoza, Tessie Fabia-Cabral, and members of the Philippine Cultural Group of Hawai'i treated the audience to a wide



variety of dances from the Philippines. Mendoza explained the evolution of dance forms, costumes and instruments, while the dancers performed indigenous dances from the mountain provinces and southern islands. The program then showcased folk dances from rural areas and styles that evolved from European, Spanish, and American influences. One of the highlights was a solo performance by Mendoza of "Amamatun," where the motions mimic a python as it grows and sheds its skin.

Mendoza was the recipient of HSFCA Folk Arts Apprenticeship Awards in 1993, 1997 and 2004 that enabled him to pass his knowledge and skills to three apprentices, one of which was Cabral. He studied with many teachers and dance companies during several trips to the Philippines and has been performing and teaching Philippine dance across the state for years.

Javanese gamelan music and Indonesian dance was presented by the University of Hawai'i (UH) Gamelan Ensemble on July 31, 2004. The hypnotic melody of metalophones, gongs, drums, and wind instruments was a rare treat for the many in attendance on the Palace grounds (due to the difficulty of transporting the instruments, the ensemble seldom plays outside of the

H. Wayne Mendoza performs a dance from the southern Philippine islands.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Accessibility Coordinators Peer Sessions at pARTicipate 2004

At the 2nd Joint Conference of the Americans for the Arts and the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies in Washington, DC on July 17-20, 2004, there were peer sessions for the accessibility coordinators. The following are a few highlights from those sessions.

Susan Perlstein, Executive Director of the National Center for Creative Aging, discussed national arts and aging models, intergenerational programs, and potential funding and partnership opportunities through aging services networks. Perlstein announced the upcoming national public awareness campaign, "Art of Aging: Creativity Matters." For more information, visit www.creativeaging.org.

Dr. Gay Hanna, Executive Director and Naj Winkoff, President of the Society for the Arts in Healthcare (SAH) discussed the Johnson and Johnson/Society for the Arts in Healthcare Partnership to Promote Arts and Healing Grant Program.

The program was established to fund innovative arts and healing projects nationally with a focus to "enhance the healthcare experience for patients, their families, and caregivers." The program also provides opportunities to gain technical assistance for organizations to support new and growing arts in healthcare programs.

"The arts are not about curing, it's about healing," stated Winkoff. He also added that the "Arts offer patients the opportunity to make choices. Not only does it allow them a way to cope with their circumstance, it offers a way to maintain their self-determination, self-expression, and personal dignity." For more information, visit www.societyartshealthcare.org.

Dr. Olivia Raynor, Director of National Arts & Disability Center at UCLA congratulated VSA Arts Hawai'i-Pacific for winning the Award of Excellence in Public Awareness and Advocacy for its "Artist Mean Business Legislative Summit" and the grand opening of Hawai'i Artsplace – Center for Creative Industries.

The legislative summit was a culmination of a statewide forum on "Promoting Careers in the Arts for People with Disabilities in Hawai'i." The forums were made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, administered by the National Arts and Disability Center at UCLA, and awarded to VSA Arts Hawai'i - Pacific and the HSFCA. For more information, www.vsarts.hawaii.edu.

FOLK ARTS



Matthew Dunn dances to the Javanese song Rickik-Rickik.

and the only one currently active in the state of Hawai'i. Susilo has taught gamelan at UCLA and UH Mānoa and was honored with the Indonesian Presidential Art Award, Hadiyah Seni, in 1993. He received an HSFCA Folk Arts Apprenticeship Award this year to teach advanced drumming techniques to Byron Moon. The drummer in the context of gamelan is the aural conductor that sets dynamic levels and establishes tempo. Moon, who teaches a class in gamelan at UH Mānoa, gave an overview of the instruments and a sound demonstration as part of the performance.

The 2004 Living Heritage Series will conclude on November 7th with a demonstration of Hawaiian kalo farming and poi making instruments by Dennis Kana'e Keawe and Hokua Pellegrino on the grounds of 'Iolani Palace. For more information call John Keoni Fujitani, HSFCA Folk Arts Coordinator at (808) 586-0306 or email john.keoni.fujitani@hawaii.gov.

UH Mānoa campus where the instruments are housed). Matthew Dunn performed a strong, male-style of Javanese dance to one of the pieces.

The UH Gamelan Ensemble was started by Hardja Susilo in the 1970s and is the longest continuously active gamelan ensemble in the United States

Nihon Buyo in Hawai‘i –
Onoe Kikunobu Dance Company

The gentle old woman leans on her wooden staff, gazing at the gate.

How do you know whether she is a demon or the loving, old woman who raised the young man, Tsuna? Assuming the appearance of Mashiba, Tsuna’s aunt, she begs entrance to the mansion that he is instructed to guard. Does he relent?

In 2004, the Onoe Kikunobu Dance Company mounted its 13th full production of Japanese classical dance replete with a lecture-demonstration and dance concerts. Three concerts graced the stage in June at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Kennedy Theatre and another at Maui Arts & Cultural Center’s Castle Theatre in July.

Hawai‘i is home for the Onoe Kikunobu Dance Company, and for 45 years, this dedicated group has artfully presented concerts, lectures, performance demonstrations, and classes on the art of Japanese classical dance.

In the words of the Company’s master teacher and founder, “Nihon Buyo refers to all the Traditional Dances of Japan” but also “to the Japanese Classical Dance that I do and teach.”



Onoe Kikunobu (Gertrude Y. Tsutsumi) in the dual role of the aged aunt, Mashiba, and the demon in “Tsuna Yakata,” performed at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa’s Kennedy Theatre.

By 1951, Gertrude Tsutsumi was choreographing and performing. Then she earned the professional name of Onoe Kikunobu and was appointed a master within the Onoe School of Dance in Japan where she studied. Back home, the first Onoe Kikunobu Dance Company Concert debuted in McKinley High School Auditorium in 1964.

“There is really no end to perfecting one’s performance skills as a dance artist,” she affirms. “In producing and directing a full scale concert, I try to present a concert that is as close to that which one would experience in Japan. Providing the best possible venue, stage design, authentic costumes and wigs, make up, music, and highly skilled stage assistants. With each concert over the years, I try to instill in my students a responsibility to maintain and assimilate the performance experience and set future goals to reach higher levels of proficiency.”

The Company is a diverse group of men and women, dedicated to learning all that they can. Through advanced training, several have also attained professional status. Howard Asao (Onoe Kikunobukazu) has been with the Company since its inception. Retired from high school Japanese language teaching, he is now the President of their non-profit organization.

David Furumoto (Onoe Kikunobuhide) studied kabuki as a theatre student at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa and now teaches at the University of Wisconsin. He delivered the concert’s accompanying evening lecture, “Myths in Nihon Buyo,” for a glimpse into the symbolism and values linked to characters in the dance.

The Company’s offerings range from their School’s repertory to choreography for local kabuki and theatre productions to contemporary creations. Alongside the traditional fare, new

pieces not only recount stories, but also characterize abstract representations of sentiments and ideas.

As stylized as Nihon Buyo is, heart-wrenching emotions can leave the viewer in tears when the story unfolds with powerful and dramatic situations. Dancers are able to portray characters that include nobility, commoners, demons, animal figures, and even bunraku puppets.

Perceptively, Onoe Kikunobu believes that “the audience is vicariously moving, feeling the rhythm, and breathing with the dancer. If there are inept movements or sloppiness, the audience can feel it in their body and mind.”

Attention to cultural authenticity and aesthetics applies equally to contemporary works. In an elegant piece premiered in this production, Japan guest artist Onoe Kikushiro took to a sparse stage, effortlessly moving through the seasons. Set to Johann Sebastian Bach’s *Suite No. 1 in G Major* and accompanied by solo cellist, Karen Fujimoto from the Honolulu Symphony, his only prop was a dance fan.

In “Nagare (Water Images),” a blend of two shamisen compositions provides the aural landscape. Choreographed by Onoe Kikunobu, the dancers are water drops and their movement symbolizes the Company, which “like the stream, has evolved into a larger and richer body of water. As the stream moves towards the ocean, spreading to touch other parts of the world, the Company too, will bring their dance concert into the community.”

“I, as a teacher, must also keep on studying and learning and strive for a higher level of proficiency,” Onoe Kikunobu explains. She returns annually to train with the headmaster of the Onoe School of Dance in Japan, for, to study Nihon Buyo, is to appreciate the Japanese arts, understand the culture, and learn about Japanese history.

With a subtle shift of the old woman’s eyes and a slight angling of her lips, the viewer is privy to the character’s transformation. The two polished dancers, in turn, masterfully express the demon’s nasty and deceitful nature and Tsuna’s anguished state-of-mind. Ultimately, Tsuna succumbs to his filial duty and the demon enters. After enjoying a reunion of food and wine, the demon reveals its true self, only to escape from Tsuna’s watch.



Onoe Kikunobukazu (Howard K. Asao) as Tsuna in “Tsuna Yakata,” performed at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa’s Kennedy Theatre.

Onoe Kikunobu Dance Company is a current HSFCA grant recipient.

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